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NASA FY 1993 BUDGET PRESS CONFERENCE

STATEMENT BY NASA ADMINISTRATOR, RICHARD H. TRULY

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GOOD AFTERNOON.

AS YOU KNOW, TODAY, NASA HAS SUBMITTED ITS FY 1993 BUDGET REQUEST OF $14.993 BILLION TO THE CONGRESS. IT IS MY PLEASURE TODAY TO HIGHLIGHT THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THIS BUDGET SUBMISSION AND TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHERE THE CIVIL SPACE PROGRAM IS FOCUSED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DECADE.

BEFORE I DO THAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL MICROGRAVITY LABORATORY, STS-42, IS COMPLETING ITS VERY SUCCESSFUL MISSION WITH QUITE A LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THE MISSION IN MANY WAYS MANIFESTS THE THRUSTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE YEAR AND HIGHLIGHTS AMERICA'S SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO EXPLORATION. THIS YEAR IS THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLUMBUS' FIRST VOYAGE TO THE NEW WORLD. IT ALSO WILL SEE NASA'S CONTINUING PREPARATION FOR THE ADVENT OF SPACE STATION FREEDOM.

AS FOR THE BUDGET, THE FY 1993 BUDGET REQUEST DEMONSTRATES THE PRESIDENT'S CONTINUING SUPPORT OF NASA AND HIS COMMITMENT TO KEEP THE UNITED STATES AT THE FOREFRONT OF SPACE EXPLORATION AND AERONAUTICS RESEARCH. THE PROPOSED BUDGET IS RESPONSIVE TO THE FISCAL REALITIES OF RESTRAINED GROWTH IN SPENDING AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET GUIDANCE WHILE ALLOWING US THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAINTAIN A PROGRESSIVE, EFFICIENT CIVIL SPACE PROGRAM.

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THE FY 1993 REQUEST REPRESENTS A 4.5 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE CURRENT YEAR APPROPRIATION, OR A RATE OF GROWTH JUST ABOVE THE RATE OF INFLATION AND WITHIN LAST YEAR'S GUIDELINES FROM THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES. THE FY 1993 BUDGET REQUIRED NASA TO BALANCE COMPETING INTERESTS, MAKE TOUGH CHOICES, AND ESTABLISH PRIORITIES BECAUSE OF THE CONSTRAINTS PLACED ON OUR RATE OF GROWTH FOR THIS YEAR. NEVERTHELESS, THE FACT THAT AN INCREASE IS PROPOSED FOR NASA IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES IS EVIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S BELIEF THAT THIS INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE PROVIDES NUMEROUS BENEFITS TO AMERICA AND SPURS THE NATION'S COMPETITIVENESS. NASA'S CONTRIBUTIONS SPAN A BROAD RANGE OF CONCERNS, SUCH AS LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH, THE ENVIRONMENT, AERONAUTICAL RESEARCH AND SAFETY, AND MANY MORE.

THIS PAST FISCAL YEAR WE SAW MAJOR RETURNS ON OUR NATION'S PAST INVESTMENT IN NASA. THERE WERE EIGHT HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SPACE SHUTTLE FLIGHTS, MAJOR SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES BY THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE AND THE COMPTON GAMMA RAY OBSERVATORY, UNBELIEVABLE IMAGES OF VENUS FROM MAGELLAN, SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE STATION FREEDOM, HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AERONAUTICS RESEARCH, AND MUCH MORE.

THE FY 1993 BUDGET IS INTENDED TO SUSTAIN THIS PROGRESS AND DISCOVERY BY FOCUSING ON THE SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF ONGOING PROGRAMS. THIS INCLUDES CONTINUING AN EFFECTIVE SPACE SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS PROGRAM TO EXPAND OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM AND THE UNIVERSE, AS WELL AS EFFORTS TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE ON THE PLANET EARTH; PROVIDING SAFE AND ASSURED ACCESS TO SPACE USING BOTH THE SPACE SHUTTLE AND EXPENDABLE LAUNCH SERVICES; MOVING FORWARD WITH DEVELOPMENT AND PREPARATION FOR FLIGHT OF SPACE STATION FREEDOM; PROVIDING THE TECHNOLOGY, EXPERTISE AND FACILITIES NECESSARY FOR CONTINUED AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN CIVIL AND MILITARY AVIATION; PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMERCIALIZATION OF SPACE AND FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION; AND SUPPORTING A VIGOROUS SPACE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM ESSENTIAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE U.S. SPACE PROGRAM.

IN ADDITION, FUNDING FOR THREE KEY PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW LAUNCH SYSTEM AND THE NATIONAL AERO-SPACE PLANE AND TO INITIATE TWO LOW COST ROBOTIC MISSIONS TO MAP THE TERRAIN AND RESOURCES OF THE MOON AND TO TAKE OUR FIRST STEPS TOWARDS OUR JOURNEY BACK TO THE MOON AND ON TO MARS. THESE ACTIVITIES ARE CRITICAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE SPACE PROGRAM AND TO THE COMPETITIVE POSTURE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FURTHER, THIS BUDGET SUPPORTS THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE WORLDWIDE POSITION OF THE U.S. IN MATH/SCIENCE EDUCATION, HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING, BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND ADVANCED MATERIALS AND PROCESSING. PUSHING THE EDGE OF TECHNOLOGY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF NASA'S MISSION, AND IT IS ALSO VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE TRANSFER AND INSERT THIS TECHNOLOGY INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

NOW IF YOU WOULD PERMIT ME, I WANT TO TALK BRIEFLY ABOUT SOME OF THE SPECIFIC ITEMS IN THE REQUEST, AND THEN I WILL BE GLAD TO TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, SPACE STATION FREEDOM, A CORNERSTONE OF AMERICA'S FUTURE SPACE PROGRAM, MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS DURING THE PAST YEAR, AND FOR FY 1993 $2.250 BILLION HAS BEEN BUDGETED. WHILE THIS IS LESS THAN PRESCRIBED IN THE RESTRUCTURED PROGRAM'S PROPOSED BUDGET PROFILE, THE LEVEL OF FUNDING IS CONSISTENT WITH CONGRESSIONAL GUIDANCE AND WILL ALLOW THE PROGRAM TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AND MAINTAIN ITS CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR FIRST ELEMENT LAUNCH AND ASSEMBLY. IT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT THE FIRST ELEMENT LAUNCH IS SCHEDULED FOR EARLY 1996 -- THAT'S RIGHT, ONLY 47 MONTHS TO LAUNCH. IN FY 1993, THE CRITICAL DESIGN REVIEW WILL TAKE PLACE. THIS IS A CRITICAL MILESTONE THAT WILL FINALIZE THE DESIGN OF THE MAN-TENDED STATION SYSTEMS AND ELEMENTS. FUNDING IS ALSO INCLUDED FOR FURTHER DEFINITION STUDIES FOR AN ASSURED CREW RETURN CAPABILITY. FY 1993 IS ALSO THE FIRST YEAR THAT FUNDING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR OPERATIONS -- NOW YOU KNOW IT'S REAL -- AS WE PROCEED TOWARDS ASSEMBLY OF THIS WORLD-CLASS INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

THE SPACE SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS PROGRAM REMAINS A TOP PRIORITY IN FY 1993 WITH A 9 PERCENT INCREASE OVER FY 1992. A VIGOROUS LAUNCH SCHEDULE IS PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR, INCLUDING THE EXTREME ULTRAVIOLET EXPLORER, THE MARS OBSERVER, THE ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SATELLITE, THE FIRST FLIGHT OF THE TETHERED SATELLITE SYSTEM, THE GLOBAL GEOSPACE SCIENCE WIND MISSION, LAGEOS II, AND SEVERAL SPACELAB MISSIONS. DEVELOPMENT WILL CONTINUE ON THE ADVANCED X-RAY ASTROPHYSICS FACILITY AND THE CASSINI MISSION TO SATURN.

THESE MISSIONS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE EARTH'S UPPER ATMOSPHERE, THE SOLAR WIND IN NEARBY SPACE, THE MARTIAN SURFACE, CLOUDS, THE RINGS AND MOONS OF SATURN AND DYNAMIC RADIATION SOURCES FAR BEYOND OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.

ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE PLAYS A DOMINANT ROLE IN THE FY 1993 BUDGET SUBMISSION. THE EARTH OBSERVING SYSTEM (EOS), WHICH HAS RECENTLY UNDERGONE A MAJOR RESTRUCTURING PURSUANT TO CONGRESSIONAL BUDGETARY GUIDANCE AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FRIEMAN COMMITTEE, AND THE EARTH PROBES PROGRAMS MAKE UP OUR "MISSION TO PLANET EARTH" PROGRAM AND ARE NASA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE U.S. GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM. CHANGES IN EOS RESULTING FROM EXTENSIVE REVIEWS WILL INCREASE ITS FLEXIBILITY, REDUCE THE RISKS AND THE BUDGET RUNOUT FOR THE DECADE OF THE 1990'S. CURRENT PLANS NOW CALL FOR SIX SPACECRAFT TO BE LAUNCHED ON A VARIETY OF EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLES RATHER THAN TWO LARGE PLATFORMS ON TITAN IV'S.

THE EARTH PROBES FUNDED IN THIS BUDGET INCLUDE A TOTAL OZONE MAPPING SPECTROMETER (TOMS). A TOMS INSTRUMENT -- THE SCATTEROMETER -- WILL BE LAUNCHED ABOARD THE JAPANESE ADEOS MISSION. THE TROPICAL RAINFALL MAPPING MISSION IS ALSO FUNDED IN THE EARTH PROBES LINE.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ITEM IN THE FY 1993 BUDGET RELATED TO THE GLOBAL CHANGE PROGRAM IS THE INCLUSION OF $25M IN FUNDING FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF A COOPERATIVE NASA/DOD LANDSAT 7 PROGRAM.

AMONG THE MOST DIFFICULT SPACE SCIENCE DECISIONS IN THIS BUDGET REQUEST ARE THE PROPOSED TERMINATIONS OF THE COMET RENDEZVOUS/ASTEROID FLYBY (CRAF) MISSION AND THE SHUTTLE TEST OF RELATIVITY EXPERIMENT (STORE). HOWEVER, AS I NOTED AT THE OUTSET, TO BALANCE THE OVERALL PROGRAM AND TO LIVE WITHIN A CONSTRAINED BUDGET, DIFFICULT DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED THROUGHOUT THE BUDGET.

THIS BUDGET REQUEST ALSO CONTINUES OUR STRONG COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP A BROAD TECHNOLOGY BASE IN SUPPORT OF THE U.S. AVIATION INDUSTRY, ENHANCE SAFETY AND CAPACITY OF THE NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEMS, AND ASSURE U.S. SUPERIORITY FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE.

IN FY 1993, THE HIGH-SPEED CIVIL TRANSPORT RESEARCH WILL FOCUS ON CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY ISSUES. INCREASED FUNDING IS PROVIDED FOR THE ADVANCED SUBSONIC TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM, WHICH WILL PERFORM VITAL RESEARCH INTO AGING AIRCRAFT AND FLY- BY-LIGHT/POWER-BY-WIRE FLIGHT CONTROL SYSTEMS.

MULTIAGENCY HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES, IN WHICH NASA IS A PARTNER, RECEIVE CONTINUED SUPPORT WITH THIS BUDGET AS NASA FOCUSES ON ENABLING BROAD ADVANCES IN AERO-SPACE VEHICLE DESIGN AND SPACE AND EARTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE.

FURTHERMORE, THE NASA REQUEST FOR THE JOINT NASA/DOD NATIONAL AERO-SPACE PLANE PROGRAM WILL BE $80 MILLION FOR ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL TECHNOLOGIES. THE DECISION ON WHETHER TO BUILD THE X-30 WILL BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE LAST QUARTER OF FY 1993, AND A NEW TIMETABLE WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO MAKE THE FUNDING PROFILE MORE CONSISTENT WITH THE BUDGET OUTLOOK.

NASA CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE A HEALTHY AND ROBUST COMMERCIAL SPACE INDUSTRY WITH FUNDING TO SUPPORT CENTERS FOR THE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE ACTIVITIES, CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL MIDDECK AUGMENTATION MODULE, THE COMMERCIAL EXPERIMENT TRANSPORTER AND THE COMMERCIAL SOUNDING ROCKET PROGRAM CONDUCTED BY SEVERAL CCDS'S.

THIS BUDGET ALSO INCLUDES FUNDING FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, INCLUDING NASA'S COMMITMENT TO THE PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION INITIATIVE IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE U.S. STUDENTS WORLD LEADERS IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT BY THE YEAR 2000.

THE SPACE SHUTTLE WILL REMAIN THE WORKHORSE OF OUR SPACE TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITY, WITH THIS BUDGET PROVIDING $3.115 BILLION FOR EIGHT MISSIONS IN FY 1993. OUR CURRENT PLANS ASSUME A FLIGHT RATE OF EIGHT MISSIONS PER YEAR THROUGH FY 1996, AND NINE ANNUALLY THEREAFTER. THE REQUESTED FUNDING INCORPORATES TARGETED EFFICIENCY GAINS OF ABOUT 3 PERCENT PER YEAR OR FIVE YEARS STARTING IN FY 1992, WITH NO DOWNGRADING OF SAFETY. CONCERNING THE LATTER POINT, I HAVE EMPHASIZED TO THE SHUTTLE TEAM THAT SAFETY IS STILL JOB ONE AND WILL REMAIN SO.

ANOTHER VERY TOUGH DECISION THAT WAS MADE IN THIS BUDGET SUBMISSION IS THE DELETION OF FUNDING FOR THE ADVANCED SOLID ROCKET MOTOR (ASRM). AS I TOLD YOU AT THE OUTSET, LIVING WITHIN PROJECTED BUDGET INCREASES OF 5 PERCENT NOMINAL GROWTH PER YEAR, AS DIRECTED BY THE CONGRESS, REQUIRED DIFFICULT CHOICES. THE FUNDING OF ASRM WAS AN AFFORDABILITY ISSUE. HOWEVER, NASA IS PLEASED THAT THE LANGUAGE IN THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH THE CONGRESS TO IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL FUNDS WHICH COULD INCREASE NASA'S OVERALL BUDGET AND ALLOW RESTORATION OF FUNDS FOR ASRM.

IN ADDITION TO THE SHUTTLE, EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE SERVICES PROCURED FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE FUNDED IN THE REQUEST. THIS INCLUDES FUNDS FOR PEGASUS, DELTA II'S, TITAN III'S AND ATLAS IIA'S. NEW MISSIONS PROPOSED FOR LAUNCH IN FY 1993 INCLUDE THE U.S./ARGENTINA SAC-B/HETE, THE X-RAY TIMING EXPLORER.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, THE JOINT NASA/DOD NEW LAUNCH SYSTEM (NLS) PROGRAM IS INCLUDED IN THIS REQUEST AT A LEVEL OF $125 MILLION EACH FOR NASA AND DOD. NLS WILL PROVIDE EVOLUTIONARY CAPABILITY USING NEW TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE OPERATING COSTS AND TO IMPROVE OVERALL RELIABILITY AND MISSION PERFORMANCE. I REALIZE WE DID NOT FARE AS WELL AS PLANNED WITH THIS INITIATIVE ON THE HILL THIS PAST SESSION. BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT WHEN THIS PROGRAM IS BETTER UNDERSTOOD, ITS BENEFITS WILL BE APPARENT AND FUNDING WILL BE PROVIDED.

BEHIND ALL NASA ACCOMPLISHES ARE ITS PEOPLE AND FACILITIES. FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT OF THIS INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITY IS BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE PROGRAM OFFICES AS RESEARCH OPERATIONS SUPPORT AS PART OF DEVELOPING A NEW SYSTEM TO BUDGET AND MANAGE THESE ACTIVITIES. THE MULTIYEAR EFFORT TO RESTORE, MODERNIZE, AND MAINTAIN THE AERONAUTICAL R&D FACILITIES AND FACILITIES TO SUPPORT PROCESSING OF SPACE STATION HARDWARE AND PAYLOADS CONTINUES WITH $319 MILLION BUDGETED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES.

IN CLOSING, I WANT TO SAY THAT NASA HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS DURING THE LAST YEAR, WE HAVE CLARIFIED THE ROLES AND MISSIONS OF THE NASA CENTERS, AND WE HAVE FORMULATED A STRATEGIC PLAN, VISION 21, WHICH GIVES US A ROADMAP TO THE FUTURE AND A BETTER SENSE OF OUR MISSION TO INSPIRE AND BETTER THE LIVES OF ALL AMERICANS THROUGH OUR ACHIEVEMENTS. WITH THE BUDGET THAT WE HAVE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS TODAY, WE CAN CONTINUE TO BUILD ON OUR PAST SUCCESSES AS WE KEEP AMERICA FIRST AMONG SPACEFARING NATIONS. I BELIEVE THIS IS THE RIGHT BUDGET FOR NASA IN THESE TIMES OF FISCAL CONSTRAINT.

AND NOW I WILL BE HAPPY TO TAKE ANY QUESTIONS.

FY 1993 NASA BUDGET REQUEST

$ 14,993 M